



Comedic Weekend

Tommy Davidson of TV's "In Living Color" makes an appearance in the city.

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Royal Contestants

Sorority selects "Youth of the Year" and crowns its princess at annual cotillion.

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Winston-Salem Chronicle

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1993

"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglass

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Womble Says Letter Prompted Death Threats

▲ Rally held to support alderman

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Alderman Larry Womble, who some say kept Winston-Salem from receiving All-American City status by writing a critical letter to judges, said he has received several "death threats" over the past few weeks.

Womble said he has gotten a "couple of (anonymous) calls and two or three letters." He said the letters were unsigned and placed on his car or mailed to his house.

Womble, however, said he will not allow "cowards" to keep him from speaking out on issues concerning the city.

"I'm not going to shut up when something's wrong in this city," he said. "To be silent means that I condone it. First I speak up, then I act up."

Womble revealed Saturday during a rally on his behalf at Emmanuel Baptist Church that he had received the threats.

"I don't even concentrate on stuff like that," he said of the threats.

"It would disrupt your daily life. I don't spend an inordinate amount of time wringing my hands."

Although no one has explicitly stated that they would kill him, Womble said he's taking the "death threats" very seriously.

"There have been these little things like, 'You better get out of town,' or 'You better be careful.' It's something to be cognizant of..." Womble said.

"If anybody wants me they can come and get me," he said.

Womble has been under attack in recent weeks for

sending a letter to the National Civic League, which gives the All-American City award, citing as key problems in the city race relations, the lack of economic development in the black community and black unemployment. In the letter, he also talked about Carlos Stoner, a black man who was castrated and killed by four white men, and Sheila Ann McKellar, a black woman who died in police custody after city police restrained her in a holding cell.

Last month, the city's application for the designation was denied, and Womble received the brunt of the blame from some residents and city officials, including

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NEWS BRIEFS

Bid for Orioles

BALTIMORE—Former pro football player Jean Pugett Jr. heads a group of investors trying to buy the Baltimore Orioles baseball team. In pursuing the team, Pugett is renewing a family effort begun by his late half-brother and multimillionaire Reginald Lewis. Lewis died earlier this year of brain cancer, and Pugett took over his interest in the billion-dollar TLC Beatrice International. Pugett, 42, would become the first black majority owner of a major league baseball team. Current Orioles owner Eli S. Jacobs is in personal bankruptcy.

Black Businesses

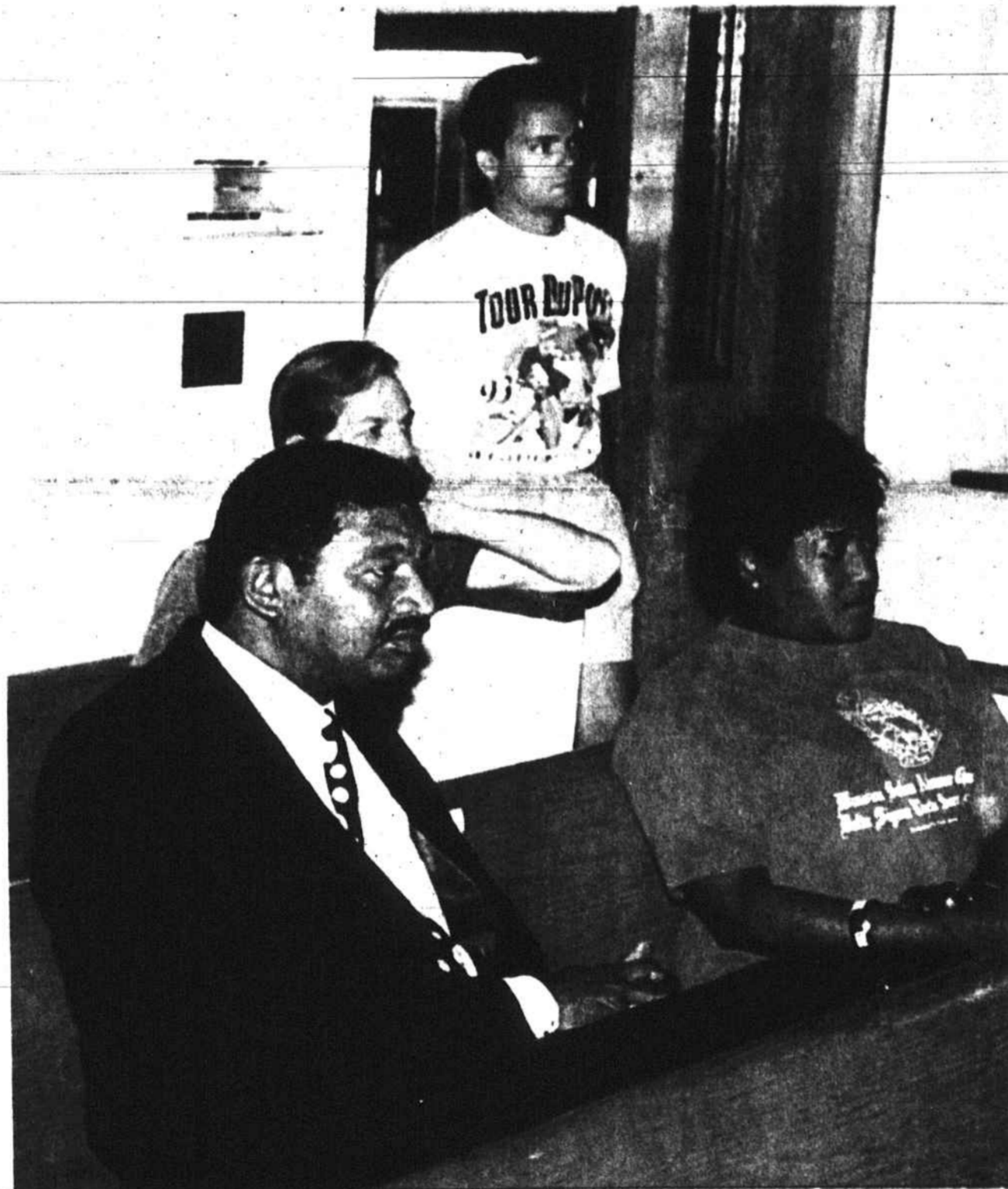
NASHVILLE—SCLC President Joseph Lowery has reached an agreement with the Shoney's restaurant chain to invest \$60 million over the next three years to aid black businesses. Shoney's recently settled a 1989 lawsuit charging that it had discriminated against black employees in a bid not to allow its restaurants to become "too dark." The billion-dollar chain operates restaurants in 37 states under various names, including Captain D's Seafood, Pargos, Lee's Famous Chicken and Shoney's.

Dove Poet Laureate

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — University of Virginia creative writing instructor Rita Dove has been selected by the Library of Congress as the nation's Poet Laureate. She will be the first African American and the youngest person awarded the post. Dove, 40, lives in Charlottesville, Va. As poet laureate, she will be in charge of the library's literary calendar for the 1993-94 season.

Welfare Reforms

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration has begun work on reforming the nation's welfare system. And preliminary indications are that increasing numbers of low-income women would be required to leave home and find jobs. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna P. Shalala said in early June: "I don't think we should subsidize poor mothers to stay out of the work force when working-class mothers are going into the workforce."



Alderman Larry Womble, seated beside Hazel Brown of the Winston-Salem Urban League, appears somber at a rally in his behalf Saturday at Emmanuel Baptist Church. For about two hours, several of Womble's supporters spoke about how he is a man of integrity who for years has spoken out about ills affecting this city. They said the criticism he has received in recent weeks for writing a letter to the National Civic League is misdirected. The letter cited reasons why Winston-Salem should not be considered an All-American city. They said the real issues are the problems that Womble addressed in his letter. Following the rally, which was sponsored by the Citizens United for Justice, several people in attendance went to the Forsyth County jail to show support for convicted murderer Darryl Hunt.

Darryl Hunt Gets Another Day in Court

By RICHARD L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Managing Editor



Darryl Hunt

Darryl Hunt still has a quick, shy smile. Only now it graces a bespectacled countenance weather-beaten by nearly 10 years of worry.

Since 1984, when he was arrested and charged with murder, fate has seemed cruel to Hunt. His claims of innocence, the many retrials and hearings, and his lawyer's claims that police and prosecutors wantonly withheld key evidence and precluded key witnesses from testifying, have made his case a *cause celebre*.

Although Hunt has maintained his innocence, his future continues to be measured by the thickness of a pile of court documents and the effectiveness and eloquence of how its contents can be argued.

Hunt, wearing bright-orange coveralls and untied, white, Nike sneakers, appeared at first nervous, but later relaxed during a 90-minute interview Saturday afternoon in the visiting room at the Forsyth County Jail.

He said he remains confident that he eventually will be exonerated, but that his faith in the criminal justice has completely eroded.

"In September 1984, sitting in (former District Attorney Donald) Tisdale's office, I had faith in the system," Hunt said. "I didn't think he could charge me with something I didn't do. Since then, I don't have faith in the criminal justice system. I now have faith in God."

His faith will be tested Monday when Hunt, 28, will have yet another day in Forsyth Superior Court.

His attorney, James Ferguson, will argue that police and prosecutors kept three potential witnesses for Hunt from testifying at his second trial in 1990. Ferguson said those witnesses

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Board Member: Bill Will Hurt Blacks

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

A school board member said he has "strong reservations" about a bill currently in the state Senate that will require school principals to report to law enforcement agencies misdemeanors occurring on school property.

Board member Walter Marshall said that his concern with the bill, which has already been passed by the House of Representatives, was "that it would adversely effect black males."

The bill is part of a four-bill package that is part of Gov. Jim



Walter Marshall

Hunt's plan to curb school violence. It would require principals to report to law enforcement agencies all



Larry Coble

misdemeanors occurring on school property that involve personal

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Bias Crimes High In Forsyth County

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

A study by North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence (NCARRV) shows racially motivated violence is steadily increasing statewide as tensions between blacks and whites continue to escalate.

NCARRV was established in 1983 to educate citizens about bias-related crimes in North Carolina. The group also monitors extremist-group activity throughout the state.

In 1992, statistics showed 138 incidents reported within 46 counties — the highest level of activity reported since the group began keeping records in 1985. Forsyth and Guilford counties each had seven

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THE WHEEL OF BLACK HISTORY
ORIGINATED BY THEODORE MARSHALL, U.S. SOLICITOR GENERAL
AS MENTIONED IN THE SUPREME COURT BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON